

Compound Sentences

7b. A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

The independent clauses of a compound sentence are usually joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, for, nor, or, so, or yet*). Independent clauses also may be joined by a semicolon.

EXAMPLES

Mark Twain wrote fiction, **and** T. S. Eliot wrote poetry.

My brother does the dishes and takes out the trash; my chores include vacuuming and dusting.

EXERCISE A Each of the following compound sentences contains two independent clauses joined by a comma and a conjunction. Underline each subject once and each verb twice. Then, circle the conjunction.

Example 1. Kiyo likes the beach, and she often goes there with her brothers.

1. The ice-covered sidewalk was slippery, and several people fell down.
2. Some students ate in the cafeteria, but others went outside in the sunshine.
3. The talk show host was silly, but his show had a large audience.
4. The waves were enormous, yet the expert surfer rescued his new surfboard.
5. Mr. Kumamoto has uncovered some great fossils, for he is an experienced fossil hunter.

EXERCISE B Rewrite each of the following pairs of simple sentences as one compound sentence. Use the coordinating conjunction in parentheses, and write your sentences above the original sentences. Be sure to add the correct punctuation where necessary.

Example 1. *Ants are small, but they are powerful.*
Ants are small. They are powerful. (*but*)

6. We can go to a movie. We can watch a videotape at home. (*or*)
7. Angel wrote a poem about his girlfriend. He did not show it to her. (*but*)
8. Dark clouds gathered above the baseball field. Rain fell steadily. (*and*)
9. The bears stole all our food. We left the campground early. (*so*)
10. Outside, a storm howled. We were warm inside the igloo. (*yet*)
11. Aretha has never taken a drawing class. She can sketch almost anything. (*but*)
12. They wanted to surprise her. They gave her a gift the day before her birthday. (*so*)
13. Joe can wait for us at the entrance. He can go in and find us a seat. (*or*)
14. Suddenly, Sparky ran to the window. We wondered what he saw. (*and*)
15. Last night the house felt chilly. I drank hot tea and curled up with a book. (*so*)